



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

TUESDAY

JANUARY 17, 2017

7:00 P.M.

6:00 p.m. – Finance & Administration Committee

Mayor Ryder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attending:

Mayor Ryder

Councilor Sirois

Councilor McPike

Councilor Wilde

Councilor Marble

Councilor Cormier

Councilor McAvoy

Town Manager Angus Jennings

Town Clerk Paula Scott

Members of the public

- A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *Mayor Ryder led the Pledge of Allegiance*
- B. CONSENT AGENDA** – *Councilor Marble made a motion, seconded by Councilor McAvoy, to accept the consent agenda. Unanimous vote in favor.*

1. SIGNATURES

2. SECRETARY'S REPORTS

- a. January 4th, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes**

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Notification of the 2017 MMA Municipal Member Dues and Service Program**
- b. Hampden Public Safety Citizen Advisory Committee Agenda for 01/19/2017 meeting**
- c. Notification of the Settlement Agreement winding up PERC partnership and related cash distributions**

4. REPORTS

- a. Finance Committee Minutes – 12/19/2016**
- b. Infrastructure Committee Minutes**
- c. Planning & Development Committee Minutes – 12/21/2016**

NOTE: The Council will take a 5-minute recess at 8:00 pm.

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d. Services Committee Minutes**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None****D. POLICY AGENDA****1. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS - None****2. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. Consideration of the proposed repeal of the Town of Hampden Conservation Ordinance – referred by Council on December 19, 2016 – At 7:05 p.m., Mayor Ryder opened the public hearing and called for any comments or questions from those in attendance.**

Mark McCullough of 25 Griffin Avenue approached the podium. As a former member of the commission, who had served 7-8 years, he stated that he was surprised to hear about the proposed repeal. He recapped all of the ways in which the commission had operated, stating that they had developed an inventory of open space, advised on open space issues especially regarding subdivisions. They assisted GIS in developing data layers on wetlands. They developed the subject ordinance, and also the policy for the Fish Warden. The commission developed an inventory of town trails, including those used for snowmobiling, hiking and access to bodies of water. There was assistance provided for the comprehensive plan, they worked with DPW to help develop the recycling program and markets for recycling. The commission did water quality monitoring of the Souadabscook, always took part in the annual stream clean up. There were issues surrounding the comp plan and they worked with others to reach a compromise. He inquired what the rationale might be for repeal, stating that the commission never formally ended; the Council just stopped calling for meetings.

Ed Steltzer of Manning Mill Rd approached the podium stating that he was a former member of the commission, having served his last term as chair in 2009. He gave credit to Mark for highlighting all of the areas in which the commission had served. He stated that in 1899, the Commissioner of the U. S. Patent office Charles H. Duell stated that “anything that can be invented has been invented” and he hopes that Council would not repeal this ordinance only to need it later.

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Bill Lippincott of 30 Wilbur Drive approached the podium. He stated that in hearing all of the ways the Commission assisted the town, it was apparent that they had a function and were useful to the town. He stated that he is against the repeal and feels that the town Council will continue to need guidance as development continues.

Councilor Wilde addressed the public by stating that the Council had made attempts to re-instate the commission but no one stepped forward. The Commission simply doesn't exist and the ordinance defines the role of the committee. Councilor Marble discussed the review process that the Council, Manager and staff have undertaken to try to make processes easier for business and development. The thought was that if there was no committee, there was no need for an ordinance, however, he feels the ordinance should remain in the hopes of empaneling a new committee. Mayor Ryder thanked all the commenters and agreed that the commission has done a lot for the Town. He stated for the record that since the commission has dissolved that the town itself has done and is doing a lot with conservation efforts at Papermill Park, Dorothea Dix Park, at Sucker Brook, and involved in stormwater monitoring.

Bill Boyington of 95 Main Rd North approached the podium and asked the Council if repealing an ordinance was common as opposed to just amending them. Manager Jennings explained that work began in 2015 on cleaning up mismatches between what all ordinances say and what was actually happening. There were many ordinances that referred to committees that were not in existence. The town went through a huge outreach process to try to get committees re-established and there was not much interest. He stated that there were some issues regarding the appropriate role of government on private land, and also that there is a need to be strategic about staff time, and what can get done. Mr. Boyington asked if there was a consideration to just amend it and not repeal it so that there is still some sort of oversight for the town.

Doug Poulin of 55 Ruth Avenue approached the podium and asked what the harm was to keep the ordinance in place. Mayor Ryder stated that some of the language was intrusive to private landowners. He then stated that he is in agreement with Mr. Boyington and that maybe some of the language needs to be deleted or amended. He is in favor of conservation, but that even if it was just amended, we still don't have anyone interested in being on the committee. Councilor Sirois stated that he was in favor of amendment rather than full repeal, and to perhaps lower the number of board members to a manageable number to start with. Having no further comments, the public hearing closed at 7:30 p.m. Councilor McAvoy made a motion, seconded by

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Councilor McPike, to repeal the Conservation Ordinance. Councilor McAvoy, Councilor Cormier, Councilor Wilde, and Councilor McPike voted in favor of the repeal. Councilor Sirois, Councilor Marble, and Mayor Ryder voted in opposition. Motion to repeal carries.

- b. Consideration of the proposed amendments to the Town of Hampden Sewer Ordinance – referred by Council on January 4, 2017 – At 7:31 p.m. Mayor Ryder opened the public hearing and called for comments or questions from the public. Hearing none, the public hearing closed at 7:33 p.m. Councilor McPike made a motion, seconded by Councilor McAvoy to approve the proposed amendments to the Town of Hampden Sewer Ordinance. Unanimous vote in favor.**

3. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

- a. Appointment of James Dyer to the Recreation Committee – referral from Services Committee – Councilor Marble made a motion, seconded by Councilor McAvoy to appoint James Dyer to the recreation committee. Unanimous vote in favor.**
- b. Appointment of Jason Sharpe to the Recreation Committee – referral from Services Committee – Councilor Marble made a motion, seconded by Councilor McAvoy, to appoint Jason Sharpe to the recreation committee. Unanimous vote in favor.**

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Notification of an un-anticipated invoice for the annual video streaming service in the amount of \$2,370 and review of recommended budget adjustment out of overlay for the purpose of funding Leightronix costs – referral from Finance Committee – Councilor Wilde recapped the recommendation for Council approval for this service. Councilor McPike made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wilde, to pay the amount of \$2,370 from overlay for the purpose of paying for the Leightronix costs. Unanimous vote in favor.**
- b. Request for authorization for the expenditure of \$1462.50 out of Library Reserve funds for the purpose of squirrel trapping and exclusion – referral from Services and Finance Committees – Councilor Marble made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wilde to authorize \$1462.50 out of Library Reserve funds for the purpose of squirrel trapping and exclusion. Unanimous vote in favor.**

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- c. **Request Council ratification for the September 30, 2015 expenditure of \$3,345.46 from the Police Cruiser Reserve account – referral from Finance Committee – Councilor Wilde explained to the public that this is just a housekeeping measure. In the past, cruiser purchases were part of the annual budget but is now part of reserves. It was just discovered that this amount was not voted on as is the customary procedure for utilizing reserve funds. Councilor Marble made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wilde to ratify the prior expenditure of \$3,345.46 from the Police Cruiser Reserve account. Unanimous vote in favor.**
- d. **Request for authorization for the expenditure of \$7,388 out of IT Reserve for the purpose of upgrading the surveillance system for the Municipal Building – referral from Finance Committee – Councilor Wilde made a motion, seconded by Councilor McAvoy to authorize the expenditure of \$7,388 out of IT Reserve for the purpose of upgrading the surveillance system for the municipal building. Unanimous vote in favor.**

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Services Committee – Councilor Marble reported that at the January 9th meeting, the referrals heard tonight were discussed, such as the recreation committee appointments. In addition, they had an update on the topo survey for the pool site. Discussed the impact of the new minimum wage on the recreation department. Also held discussions on the bus service.

Finance Committee – Councilor Wilde reported that the financial items heard tonight were reviewed in committee. They also briefly discussed the upcoming state budget and also the RSU. Discussed trying to meet with the RSU prior to budget time. Set the date for the goals and objectives meeting for February 18th.

Planning & Development – Councilor McPike reported that at the January 4th meeting, they received an update regarding the MRC Fiberight and Coldbrook Road waterline situation. There will be a Water District board meeting on the 19th at 4:00 p.m. to further discuss this issue. Committee also discussed dangerous buildings & appearance of some buildings. Talked about potentially using TIF funds for a loan program, and also to have the Town Planner begin working on a marijuana policy.

Infrastructure – Councilor Sirois reported that the next meeting will be January 30th.

- F. MANAGER'S REPORT – Manager Jennings reported on the submission of a grant application for \$95,000 for culvert replacement on Old County Rd. He is moving toward setting up a meeting with the Augusta delegation, as well as the RSU in an effort to address areas of common concern. The Children's Day Committee is beginning to ramp up. Contact Janet Hughes if interested. He reported that he has been reviewing expenditures from the HCB Account and looking for possible reimbursement from the Environmental Trust in the amount of \$270,000 over an eight year period.**

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G. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS

Councilor McAvoy – Reminded everyone to shop local and buy American. He wished Hampden goodnight.

Councilor Cormier – no comment

Councilor Marble – Thanked the members of the public that came out tonight and took part in the discussion regarding the Conservation Ordinance and to remember that it can always be revisited. It is a better town and better Council when the public is connected.

Councilor Wilde – no comment

Councilor McPike – no comment

Councilor Sirois – no comment

Mayor Ryder - Thanked the public that came tonight and addressed the Council. He likes it when the public is involved and invited everyone to the committee meetings to get involved at that level.

H. ADJOURNMENT – Councilor Sirois made a motion, seconded by Councilor McAvoy, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paula A. Scott